

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA-E**  
**PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENING TO POT AND LONGLINE GEAR**  
**EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-13-12**

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E parallel Pacific cod season will open to pot and longline gear at 12:00 noon September 1, 2012. This season is coordinated with the federal "B" season and gear sector allocations for Pacific cod in the Central Gulf of Alaska Regulatory Area (CGOA), and will close by emergency order (EO) for each gear type when its allocation is achieved. The PWS parallel Pacific cod season closures for pot gear and longline gear will coincide with the federal closures of the pot gear group and the less than 50 foot hook and line (<50' HAL) gear group in the adjacent federal CGOA, respectively.

**Fishermen are reminded that they must possess a valid ADF&G 2012 PWS non-exclusive area groundfish registration in order to participate in the PWS parallel Pacific cod fishery** and a vessel may only be registered to fish with a single gear type. Participants using pot or longline gear in parallel Pacific cod fisheries must have a functioning, NMFS approved, vessel monitoring system (VMS) as described at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak\\_faqs.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak_faqs.html). In addition, seabird avoidance measures (SAM) must be used in all longline fisheries for groundfish in state waters except the Inside District of PWS (<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm>).

Regulations protecting two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS remain in effect. Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of Seal Rocks (60° 09.78' N. lat., 146° 50.30' W. long.); and Wooded Island (Fish Island) (59° 52.90' N. lat., 147° 20.65' W. long.).

Bycatch, in aggregate, may not exceed 20% by weight of the directed groundfish species aboard a vessel. Regulation 5 AAC 28.265 requires that all rockfish be retained and any rockfish in excess of the 10% bycatch allowance be reported as a bycatch overage on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the state. Retained lingcod must measure at least 35 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. All lingcod must be delivered with the head attached and with the vent and one-inch area forward of the vent intact as evidence of gender.

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